



COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Press Release

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SAN DIEGO OFFICIALS CALL FOR HIGH-SPEED RAIL ROUTE ALONG I-15 CORRIDOR TO QUALCOMM

SAN DIEGO --- San Diego City Councilmember Sherri Lightner, State Senator Christine Kehoe, San Diego City Council President Ben Hueso, San Diego City Councilmember Donna Frye and Chula Vista City Councilmember Steve Castaneda held a press conference today calling for further study of a high-speed rail route along the I-15 corridor to Qualcomm Stadium.

"What may be the best potential high-speed rail route through the San Diego region—the I-15 corridor from Mira Mesa to Qualcomm Stadium—has been prematurely dropped from consideration by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)," Councilmember Lightner said. "It provides the shortest travel time through the region, and it's cheaper to build," Lightner continued.

"High-speed rail will bring jobs to our region and reduce congestion on the road," said Senator Kehoe. *"The route chosen should be the one that best serves the goals of high-speed rail – that offers a practical solution for public access to the trains – and that is the most environmentally sensitive alternative."*

The CHSRA studied the I-15/Qualcomm route as part of a 2005 environmental review but is not currently considering the route for further review because it does not end in downtown San Diego or directly connect to Lindbergh Field.

"The proposed routes running through Rose Canyon or tunneling underneath University City must be further studied and the environmental impacts of those routes need to be compared to those of the I-15/Qualcomm route," Councilmember Frye said

The high-speed rail line could be continued from Qualcomm Stadium south along the I-15 and I-805 corridors with a stop at Tijuana's Rodriguez International Airport, which in the future could serve as a bi-national regional airport.

“High-speed rail has the potential to enhance economic development opportunities near the border,” said Council President Hueso. “This factor should be considered before possible route options are eliminated.”

“Current proposals to extend high-speed rail from downtown San Diego to Rodriguez Airport involve tunneling beneath downtown San Diego and squeezing rail into the narrow I-5 corridor, both of which are serious obstacles which would be avoided with the I-15/I-805 route,”
Councilmember Lightner added.

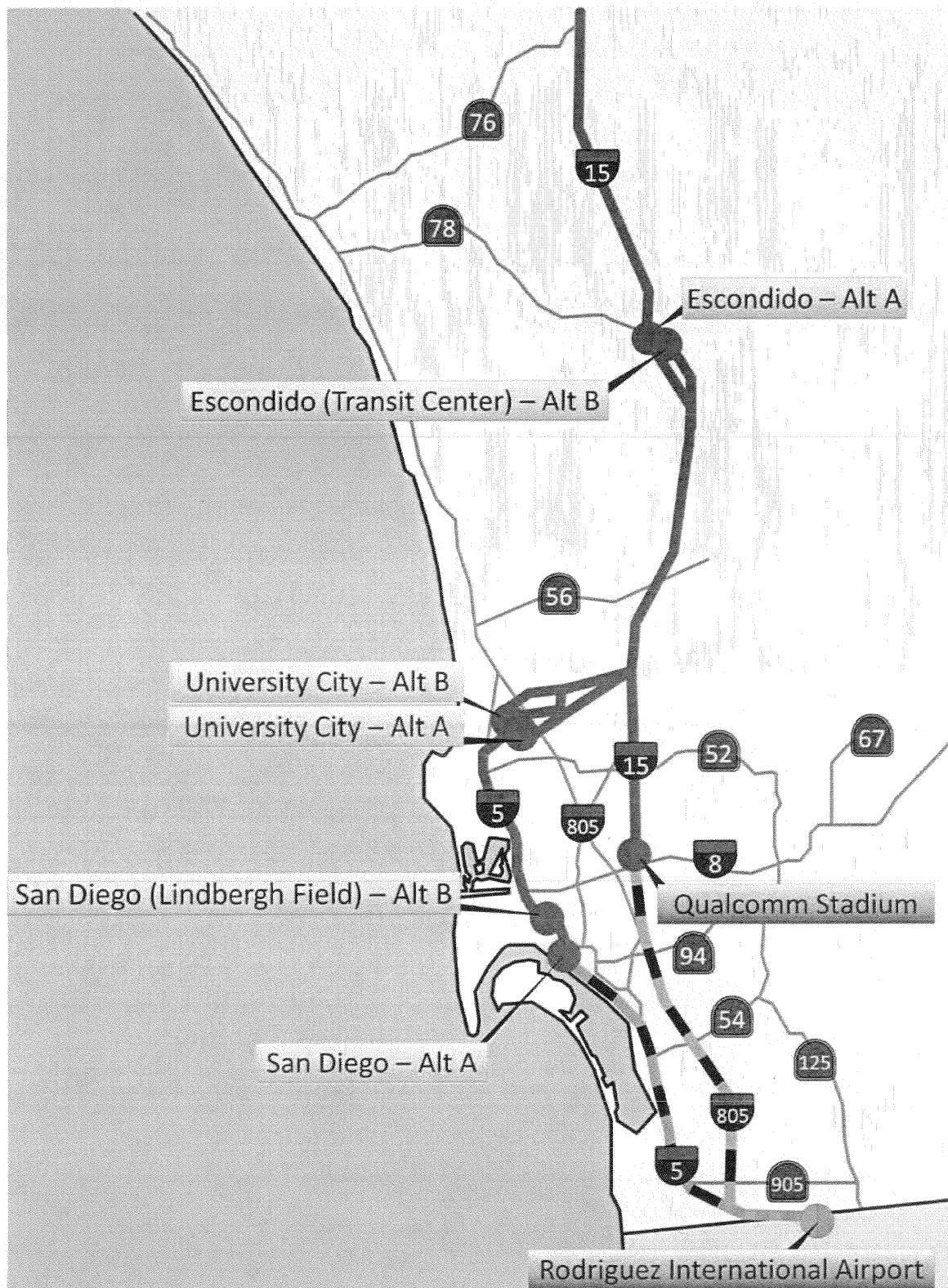
“One of the reasons the route along I-15 is projected to attract 350,000 more intercity riders by 2020 than the downtown route is that it is simply more convenient for many of our region’s residents and would provide better access for East County and South Bay riders,”
Councilmember Castaneda concluded.

CHSRA representatives will give a presentation starting at 6:30 p.m. tonight on proposed routes and take questions and comments from the public at Forum Hall, University Towne Center, 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, 92122.

For more information on high-speed rail, please visit: www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

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Map of Proposed High-Speed Rail Routes



KEY Purple: California High-Speed Rail Authority proposed alternative routes and stations, with extension to Rodriguez Airport. Red: I/15 to Qualcomm alternative with proposed route and station, with extension to Rodriguez Airport.